

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action, and the following remarks are presented for the Examiner's consideration.

Claim 5 was objected to for informalities. Claim 5 has been canceled by amendment herein, thereby rendering the objection moot.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,257,099 to Morales-Garza. Claims 1, 3-5, 14 and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Morales-Garza in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,133,081 to Mayo. Claims 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Morales-Garza in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,721,783 to Anderson. Claims 6-10, 15, 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Morales-Garza in view of Mayo and Anderson. Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Morales-Garza in view of Mayo and W0 97/29550. Claims 1 and 3-20 have been canceled by amendment herein, thereby rendering the rejections moot.

New claims 21-40 have been added by amendment herein. To the extent that the rejection of claim may be applied to new independent claims 21 and 31, Applicant's respectfully submit that Morales-Garza does not teach all of the limitations of these claims, including, *inter alia*: "at least one hearing device comprising a signal processing unit and an electro-acoustic transducer, the signal processing unit being operatively connected to the electro-acoustic transducer."

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the

application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. TSW 32978.

Respectfully submitted,
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